

Memorandum

To: GE Housatonic River Citizens Coordinating Council
From: Harry Manasewich, Facilitator
Kirk Fallis, Assistant Facilitator
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2002
Subject: Agenda & Meeting Reminder

Greetings:

The next meeting of the CCC will be May 1st, 2002. The meeting will be held in our regular meeting spot, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave, Pittsfield, MA. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM.

Please find below the notes from the April 3rd meeting of the CCC, Action Items, and a proposed Agenda. Note a GE Site visit will be held on June 5th in lieu of a regular meeting. The facilitator is asking people to check their schedules and let MODR know as soon as possible if they are interested in attending the site tour.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting of the CCC. Should you have any questions please contact Kirk at 617-727-2224 ext.21179 or Harry at ext. 21181.

GE-Housatonic River
Citizen's Coordinating Council
Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium
April 3rd, 2002
5:30 - 7:30
Meeting Highlights

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

Lead Facilitator: Harry Manasewich
Assistant Facilitator: Kirk Fallis

Participants

There were 27 people attending the CCC.

Introductions and Review of Agenda

The facilitator welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the CCC.

Proposed Agenda: The proposed agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Corrections To CCC Meeting Highlights: The notes were reviewed. There were no corrections to February 6th, 2002 Meeting Highlights.

Site Visit

GE has offered to plan a site visit. It was decided that the June meeting would be a site visit rather than a meeting at the Berkshire Athenaeum. Updates will be provided as possible. The visit will take place at our normal meeting time on June 5th. It will be important that anyone interested should RSVP as soon as possible to Kirk Fallis at MODR 617-727-2224 ext 21179. MODR will send out a special notice letting people know.

There was discussion around whether videotaping and cameras would be allowed. GE offered to videotape and take pictures, and make those available to CCC members, as they have on previous site visits. CCC members will be able to make requests for particular photographs to be taken.

If there are particular areas that the CCC would like to be included on the tour those requests can be forwarded to Kirk Fallis.

Possible Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Events

The facilitator reviewed some of the possible 2002 agenda items that were raised at the end of last year:

1. Remediation Case Studies: currently available technologies and alternative technologies.
It was felt that some of this information was already raised at the recent HRI symposium. However the topic remains to be of interest. HRI suggested that a possible expert to be approached on the topic is Daryl Luscombe.
2. PCB risk assessment: environmental and health
While there has been a presentation by EPA on human health risks, another presentation may be timely toward the end of this year.
3. EPA's Contaminated Sediment Action Plan
Bryan Olson suggested May 2002 meeting as possible time for this presentation.
4. Discussion on Dredging Techniques
Not really timely in the current stage of the project. EPA would consider a presentation in a year or so. HRI may also be planning another symposium on dredging.
5. EPA's Information Resources: how information is disseminated to the public. Tonight's presentation
6. New Bedford Harbor: discuss the work occurring at that cleanup location. The facilitator, who also facilitates a public forum for that project, offered to work with Bryan to explore a possible guest speaker.

Bryan Olson explained that while these topics are great - timing would be an important factor to consider. It will be important that specific topics are matched with events occurring in the project.

Presentation

Information Resources for PCB Characterization and Remediation; by Kathy Yager, EPA Technology and Innovation Office

Kathy Yager introduced her office and the work they do at the Technology Innovation Office (TIO) at EPA. TIO's mission is to provide information on smarter technologies for the characterization of Contaminated

sites, work with clients to identify better, faster, and cheaper options, and identify and reduce barriers to the use of innovative technologies. TIO works with responsible parties or owners of sites, federal and state project managers and consulting engineers.

Included in the PowerPoint presentation were a number of PCB characterization resources, the most general of which is EPA's Remediation and Characterizations Innovative Technologies (or REACH IT) Online System (<<http://www.epa.gov/etv>>). Kathy also demonstrated some of the incredible spectrum of information that one can access. Kathy provided a top 10 websites list for hazardous waste management. Other written materials will be made available at the next meeting of the CCC (May 1, 2002).

Updates

MA DPH (on behalf of MA DPH by Bryan Olson of EPA):

Suzanne K. Condon of the MA. Department of Public Health sent a monthly update letter dated April 2, 2002. The facilitator reviewed the contents of the letter with the CCC, including:

- * Update on a MA DPH health consultation on cancer incidence that includes an examination of temporal and spatial patterns of key cancers. This will be part of a summary of public health assessment.

- * Comment period remains open on the eight public health assessments regarding the GE facility in Pittsfield.

- * Progress continues on the draft Public Health Assessment for the Housatonic River itself.

- * Update on MA DPH's efforts to assess the feasibility of conducting an occupational epidemiological investigation of former workers of GE.

- * MA DPH staff attended the symposiums sponsored by HRI and Tufts University in Pittsfield.

Discussion

Some CCC members expressed frustration that MA DPH has not sent a representative to a CCC meeting in over a year despite repeated requests. J. Lyn Culter of MA DEP pointed out that this is a difficult period of time for most agencies of the Commonwealth as there are staffing reductions and reduced budgets for outreach. Facilitator reminded the committee that the MA DPH has said they will come to meetings if there are specific items that they are being asked to present on. It was suggested that MA DPH be requested to speak on items 1 and 2 from the Update letter. The facilitator will work with Bryan to convey the request to MA DPH. It was also suggested that people interested in these topics attend the DPH meetings and let them know they would like greater public participation in the meetings.

There was a question relating to a recent court decision in Alabama, and whether anyone knew more about it. In that case, the court ordered a study to be done on public health effects of PCBs. It was suggested that it might be interesting to contact the study to see the methodologies being utilized by this study.

CT Subcommittee (by Judy Herkimer of HEAL)

Judy provided the CCC with an update of the March 25, 2002 meeting of the CT Subcommittee. The featured highlight of that meeting was a presentation by Susan Svirskey and the EPA consultant team of Roy Weston Inc. They summarized the recent results of sediment sampling in the CT portion of

the Housatonic River. Information repositories were also discussed at the CT Subcommittee meeting and Judy outlined the importance to residents of having a complete hardcopy repository in the State.

General Electric (by Mike Carroll, Richard Gates, & Andy Silber)

Brownfields: Currently working at dismantling the Powerhouse. Demolition should be complete around June 2002. Steady progress is being made in this very slow and deliberate work and GE is dealing with a great deal of complexity in this building. Working with Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) on master site plan and transfer of land to PEDA. GE is currently doing preliminary preparation in anticipation of demo of Buildings 33 and 34 between Silver lake and Woodlawn Ave.

½ Mile: GE is now cleaning the 3rd cell from the end of the ½ Mile. There are just two more cells to go. Non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) was found in J2. Work upstream of the cell has had to stop temporarily because of river height. The increased river flow affects the speed of the work, increases the pressure and makes stabilizing the Cell more difficult. Within the next week excavation will be complete and GE will start remediation of the cell.

As of March 2002, more than 9,700 cubic yards of contaminated river sediments and 6,000 cubic yards of bank soil have been removed from the river's first half mile.

Discussion

There was discussion regarding whether there has been characterization and testing of the oil substance found in the cell. GE will be attempting to get samples during the excavation upstream in the next couple of days. There was also a question regarding what type of sampling is being done of biota outside of the river. GE outlined a number of sampling projects of biota occurring in MA and CT.

Residential Program: The residential program has sampled 320 properties to date. There have been 204 properties that have shown levels above 2 parts per million. There have been 164 properties remediated. GE knows of 5 properties requiring remediation next year.

GE has also submitted work-plan for Lyman Street area on March 26. On February 26, 2002 GE submitted flood plain residential plan entitled "Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for Floodplain Residential Properties Downstream of the Confluence".

Discussion

There was discussion regarding the depth at which samples are being collected. GE explained there are both a surface sampling and a subsurface sampling component for these properties. Surface sampling is done in the top foot of soil only. Subsurface soil borings (different locations than surface samples) will be advanced to a depth of 7 feet. At these locations, the 0 to 1 foot, 1 to 3 foot, and 3 to 5 foot increments will be analyzed initially for PCBs, and the 5 to 7 foot depth increment will be analyzed only if the data to 5 feet do not define the vertical extent of PCBs.

EPA (by Bryan Olson):

1.5 Mile: EPA will start later this summer on the first stretch of the 1.5

mile. EPA will then start building access roads and clearing for the remediation. EPA has sent out offer letters for access to property owners. These will be offers of compensation given the impact to properties of the remediation work on the Housatonic River. Normally EPA would get an access order and would not be compensating in this manner. However in the circumstances EPA felt it was appropriate.

Several property owners have agreed already. If no agreement is reached between EPA and property owners, EPA will order access and use courts to approve the level of compensation and grant the easement.

Draft Community Relations Plan: The draft is close to being complete and will serve a similar role to the Public Involvement Plan. It has been updated with site and community information. EPA would like comments on the draft and input if there is anything people feel has been left out. Copies will be put in the repositories. Document will be posted on the website and EPA would like comments by the end of May 2002. Assistant facilitator will send out notices to CCC when EPA forwards the document.

Newsletter: EPA has completed a newsletter, the "Housatonic Sampler". Goal is for the newsletter to be very readable and capture attention of the public. Everyone on the CCC will get a copy and extra copies will be distributed at public places.

Discussion:

There was concern expressed regarding air contamination in and around landfill sites from the possibility of the volatility of PCBs. EPA suggested that as studies of the air quality have been done, that interested CCC members should contact Bryan Olson. Once the landfill is completed the situation will be looked at again. HRI expressed the concern that in confined spaces volatilization was of a concern and that more research needed to be done. EPA explained that the PCBs in this site are relatively stable. HEAL recommended an article called, "Our Stone Future" which deals volatilization and air transport.

Tim Conway of EPA

Commercial Fact Sheet: In response to public requests that individual property owners need to know the options they have a fact sheet has been prepared for commercial property owners and this fact sheet. The fact sheet will outline what the options are for property owners. Tim would like comments that CCC members have on the draft fact-sheet.

EPA Jurisdiction in Railway Cargo: In response to inquiries made by CCC members Tim has inquired into EPA jurisdiction to inquire into railway cargo. The jurisdiction is limited to situations where the cargo is in storage not in transit. The best avenue for concerned citizens is to contact local emergency planning committee. Tim distributed materials in response to CCC inquiries.

MA DEP (by J. Lyn Cutler)

J. Lyn Cutler announced that for the next 6 months she would be working halftime due to her pregnancy. The facilitator congratulated Lyn on the news that she is expecting! Susan Streenstrup will be the acting Section Chief and the MA DEP contact person for the CCC.

King Street Dump: MA DEP updated the CCC on the 40 or so drums that were found in the area of King Street Dump. The drums have been removed as of the end of March, 2002 and secured. The City will come up with a plan to deal with residual contamination by April 2002. Fence has been installed on the site as a proactive step. MA DEP does not feel that there is an imminent risk

however felt that it is a good idea to have the site fenced. Currently evaluating what types of investigation will be necessary to close the site. Expect that there will be a public meeting on the subject at the end of April with the City. Assistant facilitator will send out a notice of the meeting when the date is set.

Work on the Comprehensive Site Assessment Report continues.

Natural Resource Damages (NRD) (Dale Young):

Announcement sent that the Trustees will be meeting April 9th at Lee Town Hall from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The trustees have prepared response and will be posted on the EPA along with final agreement at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/ge/restoration.html> .

Discussion

Request made that the assistant facilitator ensure that the federal trustee is aware of schedule of CCC and CT Subcommittee meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 1, 2002. There will be a tour of GE Site on June 5th, 2002. If you are interested in participating please contact Kirk Fallis at 617-727-2224 ext. 21179 or by email at kirk.fallis@state.ma.us <<mailto:kirk.fallis@state.ma.us>> .

GE-Housatonic River Citizen's Coordinating Council
Berkshire Athenaeum
Pittsfield, MA
May 1st, 2002
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Harry Manasewich, MA Office of Dispute Resolution
Assistant Facilitator: Kirk Fallis, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

Proposed Agenda

5:30 - 5:40 Welcome and Introductions (by Facilitator)

5:40 - 5:50 Review of Proposed Agenda and Notes of Last Meeting (by Facilitator)

6:30 - 7:20 Updates (includes follow-up questions and answers):

- * General Electric (by Mike Carrol and team)
- * US Environmental Protection Agency (by Bryan Olson)
- * MA Department of Environmental Protection (by Susan Steenstrup)
- * Natural Resources Damages (by Dale Young)

7:10 - 7:20 Action Items: Report and Discussion (by Facilitator)

7:20 - 7:30 Next Steps (by Facilitator)
 * Site Visit
 * Summer Meeting Schedule

ACTION ITEMS

Entry Date	Item	Responsible	Deadline
2/6/02	Send e-mail notices to CCC as blind 'cc'.	Facilitator	4/3/02
2/6/02	Look into arranging an update on the "Residential Mortgage Fund"	Facilitator	4/3/02
4/3/02	RSVP Kirk Fallis for the GE Site Visit June 5, 2002	CCC	ASAP
4/3/02	Send out notices of Community Relations Plan from EPA	Asst Facilitator	When document ready
4/3/02	Tim Conway would like comments on draft fact sheet for commercial property owners	CCC	ASAP
4/3/02	Notice of meeting regarding the closure of the King Street Dump	Susan Streenstrup	4/02
4/3/02	Invite DPH to attend a CCC meeting and present on specified activities	Facilitator & Bryan	5/1/02
4/3/02	Invite EPA person to speak on New Bedford Harbor PCB Cleanup	Facilitator & Bryan	ongoing